



Inside this issue

Military discipline
 Page 2

Donating to CFC
 Page 4

Snow removal
 Page 5

Crash exercise
 Page 6

Sports at Thule
 Pages 9-10

Calendar of events
 Page 11

First Knight
 Page 12

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Photo by Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates (left) swears in Michael Donley as the 22nd secretary of the Air Force at a ceremony Oct. 17 at the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Va., as his wife, Gail Donley, looks on.

Donley sworn in as SECAF

Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates officially swore in Michael B. Donley as the Secretary of the Air Force Oct. 17 at the Air Force Memorial.

In his speech, Secretary Donley said he's honored to serve as the senior civilian leader of the Air Force and looks forward to the challenges of the position.

"To the men and women of the Air Force, to its many stakeholders, and to all who know and love this tremendous institution, I commit to you my full energies during my term of office as the 22nd Secretary of the United States Air Force," Secretary Donley said. "It is my honor and privilege to accept this appointment as Secretary of the Air Force. I am grateful to once again be serving with the finest Air Force in the world."

In the coming days, the Air Force will face several issues, but is prepared to tackle any obstacle, he said.

"As the Air Force looks forward, the possibilities are unlimited," Secretary Donley said. "We are making great strides in strengthen-

ing our nuclear enterprise and restoring acquisition excellence, and there is absolutely no question that America's Airmen are 'all in' for today's joint and coalition fight."

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz was the presiding official for the ceremony.

"Today we celebrate Secretary Donley's virtuous character, strong leadership, and personal example of our Air Force core values," General Schwartz said. "It is a privilege to have Secretary Donley lead our Air Force as we go through these important times."

His leadership has reinforced the standards of performance, ethics and accountability necessary for us to continue our heritage of excellence, General Schwartz added.

Secretary Donley has more than 30 years of experience in the national security community, including service in the Senate, White House and the Pentagon. In his most recent position, he was responsible for Washington Headquarters Services, a 1,300-employee entity that oversees management of the Pentagon and Department of Defense services within the National Capital Region, and the Pentagon Force Protection Agency.



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

TALKING MILITARY DISCIPLINE

Master Sgt. Shawn Swidecki, 821st Air Base Group first sergeant, imparts military discipline strategies and techniques to Thule Airmen today in the base conference room. This month, first sergeants and staff judge advocates were encouraged to teach the importance of military discipline and ways of upholding it as part of the Year of Leadership implemented in Air Force Space Command by Gen. C. Robert Kehler, AFSPC commander, this summer.

Why are we here?

Col. Tom Peppard 821st Air Base Group commander

You may have asked yourself, "Why am I stationed at Thule Air Base, located on the northwest coast of Greenland, 700 miles inside the Arctic Circle and approximately 900 miles from the North Pole?" To understand this important question and your leadership role supporting Team Thule, you must first understand the mission of the 21st Space Wing.

21st SW Mission

"Conduct flawless missile warning and space control operations, provide unsurpassed installation support and protection, while developing and deploying Warrior Airmen to defend America and our Allies"

The 21st SW includes 27 locations in five countries and includes almost 2,000 military personnel, a shade less than 1,000 civilians and more than 2,000 contractors working in support of this mission. Team Thule supports the overall

mission of the 21st SW with a multi-national force of about 600 US, Canadian, Danish and Greenlandic military, civilian and contractor force.

Team Thule Mission

"Ensure US and NATO space superiority through unsurpassed installation operations, security & oversight of the Air Force's largest overseas base, the 232,000-acre, multi-national Thule Defense Area"

The 12th Space Warning Squadron operates the ballistic missile early warning system at Thule. BMEWS is a two-sided, solid-state, phased-array radar system used to perform multiple missions, primarily early warning of missile attacks against the US and Canada. The 12th SWS has a secondary mission of providing space surveillance data on objects in space.

The 22nd Space Operations Squadron, Detachment 3, is the largest and northernmost unit of eight worldwide satellite command and control stations in the Air

Force satellite control network. The 22nd Space Operations Squadron, a unit of the 50th Space Wing headquartered at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., operationally controls Det 3.

Team Thule is comprised of personnel who operate missile warning, space surveillance and satellite command and control equipment while the rest of us support them by providing outstanding security, communications, civil engineering, personnel, services, logistics and medical support.

We all operate in a difficult Arctic environment with extremely cold temperatures, and we have just entered three months of total darkness. The road ahead is challenging; however, we can focus on our motto "Mission Always... People First". We are all here to accomplish and support the space superiority mission, and we can't do it without every member of Team Thule. I look forward to our continued success through your personal leadership and dedication to the mission.



Courtesy photo

HAIL TAXI

Four new Greenland Contracting taxis wait outside the Greenland Contracting building here recently. The new diesel taxis were bought to replace the old unleaded gasoline ones and arrived late this summer. The diesel taxi's gas mileage is 65 percent higher than the old ones, saving Greenland Contracting and the Air Force money and fuel. The taxis provide an invaluable 24 hour, seven day a week service that permit many of Thule's residents to ride in the comforts of a heated vehicle instead of walking in the increasing cold and dark weather. To call a taxi, call 629-2022 and follow the voice prompts. Thule taxis usually pick up passengers less than 15 minutes after they place the call.

Special leave accrual option for 'use or lose'

Staff reports

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) -- Airmen who were recalled from or unable to take annual leave this past year because of supporting contingency operations may be allowed to accumulate more than 75 days at the end of a fiscal year.

Special leave accrual applies when deployments or assignments to designated operational missions at the national level prohibit members from using leave. It applies to active duty and Reserve personnel under Title 10 of the U.S. Code, and includes Air National Guard members who performed full-time training or other full-time duties for 30 days or more.

"Special leave accrual is designed to prevent Airmen from losing accrued leave if they're unable to take normal leave due to significant and unforeseen operational requirements," said Master Sgt. Licci Barham, superintendent of customer support operations at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

Airmen cannot use their major command's recovery time policy as a reason for reinstatement when accrued leave could have been taken in its place, she added.

Airmen who meet the criteria for having special leave accrual should contact their local military personnel section for additional guidance or call the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

Government Travel Card changing hands

2nd Lt. Jeremy Putz 21st Comptroller Squadron

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- It's 12:01 a.m. on Nov. 30, 2008, and your Bank of America Government Travel Card is useless.

Will you be resting confidently knowing you've got the brand new Citibank GTC? Or will you be climbing out the window of an Air Force Inn because you can't pay your bill?

Here are five quick tips to ensure you don't find yourself out in the cold for the rapidly approaching GTC transition:

- If you don't have a Citibank GTC right now, call the number on the back of your

Bank of America card or get with your unit Agency Program Coordinator to confirm your mailing address is correct. If it isn't, get it corrected, and tell your APC you need the card re-sent.

- Don't wait until late November to realize you urgently need a Citibank GTC. Citibank's call centers and your APCs do not have the capacity to handle all the TDY-ers who will do this.

- If you do have your Citibank GTC, call the number on the card and activate it as soon as possible. This is the only way your APC knows you received the card, and it's the only way it will work on Nov. 30.

- TDYs occurring over Nov. 30 require both your old Bank of America and your new Citibank cards. Use the Bank of America card for charges before midnight on Nov. 30 and the Citibank card for charges after. For most TDYs, reimbursements will be made appropriately to each card.

- Take ownership of both your old and new GTC accounts. Call the number on the back of your Bank of America card or talk to your APC to be certain your account is paid off before you discard it after Nov. 30. Your credit is on the line.

Please contact your unit APC if you have any doubts about your readiness for this transition.

Thule's most core value: service before self

Lt. Col. David C. Arnold
821st Air Base Group
deputy commander

Under an initiative directed by Gen. C. Robert Kehler, Air Force Space Command commander, the Air Force's northernmost base is focusing on the "Year of Leadership."

Running through August 2009, Thule, along with the rest of the command, will focus on the critical role everyone plays in executing our space superiority mission. In the month of November, the theme is the Air Force's core values.

Integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do are great words, but what do they really mean, and how do we apply them to our lives inside the Arctic Circle?

As we start the dark season, three months without sunlight, the core values are even more important.

Integrity is doing the right thing even when nobody is looking. Integrity is putting on a pair of gloves for the simplest task in the kitchen. Integrity is running the checklist that you've run a hundred times already even when you already know who you're supposed to call. Integrity is stopping at the stop sign even though the traffic at Thule isn't even the busiest in Greenland.

Excellence in all we do may be the most difficult of the three core values to live out each and every day here that begins and ends in the dark and in the subzero temperatures of our Arctic home. To achieve excellence, we have to battle against the tide of mediocrity, fatigue, time constraints and the ever-present pressure to cut corners in the cold.

But at Thule, the most core value of all is the core value service before self. At the Department of De-

fense's most remote base, Service is more than a slogan; it's the way we live.

Service is why we're here.

Service is why we practice for hours outside in full Arctic gear that one task we hope we never have to actually perform. Service is why we don't get to go off base to go to a burger joint or shop for the latest electronics because the nearest mall is a six-hour plane ride. Service is why we face the never-ending darkness, the constant biting wind and the pervasive ice.

We hear the core values talked about a lot, but I hope every member of Team Thule takes time to seriously consider what they mean personally. In our current environment, anything less than our best could result in disaster for our base and our teammates at the top of the world.

Donating to the CFC: Make it a personal choice

1st Lt. Lisa Meiman
821st Air Base Group
Public Affairs

A life is slipping away. The last thing to think about is something as pointless as the Combined Federal Campaign.

However, it is during these times that the Combined Federal Campaign can play its biggest role in a person's life.

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Clayton, 821st Support Squadron superintendent, learned this 13 years ago, and every year during the CFC, he is sure to give back to the one organization that "truly opened their doors to us during what was otherwise a dismal time."

"There's one I give to. That's Give Kids The World," Sergeant Clayton said.

When Sergeant Clayton's son, David, was four years old, he was diagnosed with a

rare form of leukemia.

"David had less than a 50 percent chance to beat the leukemia," Sergeant Clayton said.

"While we were at the University of Florida hospital a nurse contacted the Make-A-Wish foundation. Make-A-Wish called and asked what we wanted to do," he said.

David was a big fan of Jurassic Park at the time, so the Claytons told the Make-A-Wish foundation that they and their son would like to go to Universal Studios. Make-A-Wish then put them in touch with Give Kids The World, an organization based out of Orlando that runs a resort for terminally ill children.

"Give Kids The World set us up for an entire week in Orlando: five days at Disney, one at Sea World and one at Universal Studios. They take care of everything," Sergeant

Clayton said. "It was a fantastic trip. It was everything you could hope for. David had a fantastic time."

"Without donations to organizations like this they wouldn't exist, and there wouldn't be any help out there when we need it the most," said Staff Sgt. Tracey Carroll, Thule's alternate CFC group representative and the 821st Security Forces Squadron rep.

After the trip, the Food and Drug Administration approved a drug that treated only David's type of leukemia. Thanks in large part to the drug, David's leukemia went into full remission, and it has not come back.

However, Sergeant Clayton did not forget what Give Kids The World did for his family.

"I want to allow other families to experience a time like that with their kids," he said.

"That is the only thing that is important during those times. Many families can't afford things like this, and through organizations like Give Kids The World, hundreds and hundreds of families are able to give their kid what is really a last wish."

"Take the opportunity to look through the list of charities. There are so many worthy organizations," Sergeant Clayton said. "And if the organization is similar to Give Kids The World, they can be impacting other people's lives in ways they can't even begin to imagine."

"We are fortunate for what we have, and if an Airman can afford to make a donation to an organization that will somehow impact their life or the lives of someone they know or love, then they should donate" Sergeant Carroll said.



Photo by Capt. Ed Jackowski

FIRST SNOW

Thule had its first snow Sept. 29, a few inches of powder, only 14 days after the official beginning of storm season.

Improving simplest processes make huge difference

1st Lt. Lisa Meiman
821st Air Base Group
Public Affairs

Thule's four new snow removal machines have reduced the cycle time to clear the airfield from hours to minutes – a success for the Air Force's Smart Operations 21 initiative.

"Before, it took three plows and two sweepers 1.5 hours to clear the runway. On Oct. 16, it took three of four new machines less than 30 minutes to clear the runway," said Steen Svensson, Greenland Contractors' ramp services supervisor.

"We were done at 8 a.m. with all snow removal we needed to get the base's weekly passenger DC-8 in with only a half an hour of work," he added.

AFSO 21 focuses on generating efficiencies and improving combat capabilities across the Air Force, applying its time and money-saving tenets to all processes associated with the Air Force mission.

The snow removal machines fulfill four of five AFSO 21 desired effects: increasing productivity of Air Force

personnel, increasing equipment availability, improving response time and sustaining safe and reliable operations. More monitored use of the machines in action is needed to see if the machines also fulfill the improving energy efficiency effect, but initial estimates predict nearly 20,000 gallons of fuel will be saved.

For the airfield crews, one of the biggest benefits is later start times to clear the airfield. Mr. Svensson used to have to get his team in at 4 a.m. if there was an early flight coming in. Now the team can wait until about 6 a.m.

The rest of the base also reaps the benefits of the cleaner, more efficient machines.

"Instead of using the old machines just at the airfield for one whole day, we can bring the new machines to work on other parts of base," said Preben Thomsen, Greenland Contractors transportation, pavements and grounds supervisor.

Parts of the machines, like the tractors, can also perform other transportation needs besides clearing snow.

"The tractors are inter-



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

One of the new snow removal machines clears the pavement between the runway and the terminal before DC-8 arrival Oct. 30. The four new snow removal machines, a combination of plow, blower and sweeper, reduced the time needed to clear the airfield from all day to less than two hours.

changeable. We can use them all year round for different purposes, like at the port during port season or hauling trailers," said Mr. Thomsen, also known as "Snowbird 2".

The four new snow removal machines, a combination of plow, blower and sweeper, arrived this summer by ship from Denmark. Each cost Greenland Contractors about \$800,000 or 4.4 million Danish Kroner.

After several tests during the week of Oct. 13, the crew has remained optimistic about

the new equipment.

"People can really see a difference. The confidence in the tractor itself is incredible compared to the old equipment," Mr. Svensson said.

Despite a relatively sparse arrival and departure schedule, the airfield crew needs to clear the runway, taxiway and main ramp, an area larger than three million square feet (287,500 square meters), when there is snow on them, which is pretty much every day during the winter months.



Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Firefighters Stefan Soerensen and Carsten Kryger carry “injured” Airman 1st Class Eric Fowler, 821st Security Forces Squadron, out of the fire pit serving as a simulated wreckage of an L-100 in an exercise Oct. 20. Firefighters and their emergency medical technicians had to treat victims with a variety of injuries at the exercise accident site. The exercise tested the fire department’s and military’s ability to respond to an aircraft crash on base and communications between the Danish and American agencies during crises.

Aircraft exercise sharpens Thule firefighters, base emergency plans



Above: Thule firefighters Anders Pedersen and Lars Dixon wait for backup before entering the training crash site, also called the fire pit, during the exercise here Oct. 20. Left: A P-23 airport rescue firefighting vehicle puts out a simulated fire in an area meant to represent a wing that had broken off from the aircraft after it “crash landed” near the runway.

"GET BACK!"



Left: Tech. Sgt. Ryan Gilbert, 821st SFS, performs an open mode, weapon side strike. Airmen practiced both open and closed mode strikes with their expandable batons during the Armament Systems and Procedures, Inc., basic certification course. The ABC training covers six different baton strikes: closed mode, weapon side strike; closed mode, weapon side, reaction side strike; closed mode straight strike; open mode, weapon side strike; open mode, weapon side, reactions side strike; and open mode straight strike

Above: Senior Airman Danilynn Benavente, 821st SFS, performs a closed mode, straight strike with her baton during ABC training. The training taught the baton fundamentals to give Airmen the option of using non-lethal force in situations that require less than lethal force. SF Airmen are charged with de-escalating situations using the least amount of force necessary .

Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman



Senior Airman Matthew Houston, 821st Security Forces Squadron, performs a weapon side strike with a closed mode baton on a bag held by Tech. Sgt. Felix Rolon, 821st SFS, in the Thule Fitness Center Oct. 14.



Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

SEARCH AND RECOVERY

Left: Tech. Sgt. Gregg Wolfe, 821st Support Squadron logistics plans and programs NCO in charge, stakes a marker into the ground next to a simulated human remain during a search and recovery exercise Sept. 29. The S&R team had to identify and retrieve several simulated remains to refresh their skills.

Above: Members of Thule's S&R team are evaluated by Col. Tom Peppard, 821st Air Base Group commander, as they practice in the field adjacent to Bldg. 346 Monday. The team performed several passes on the field looking for simulated human remains.



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Thule Airmen enjoy a complementary buffet at the Top of the World Club Oct. 18 in celebration of the end of the club membership drive for 2008. Only members were invited to the free buffet and eligible for door prizes and other goodies given away that night. Between July 15 to Oct. 15, the TOW Club gained about 50 Danish and American members, but only the military members counted toward Thule's total for the Air Force Clubs membership drive.

Thule Spotlight

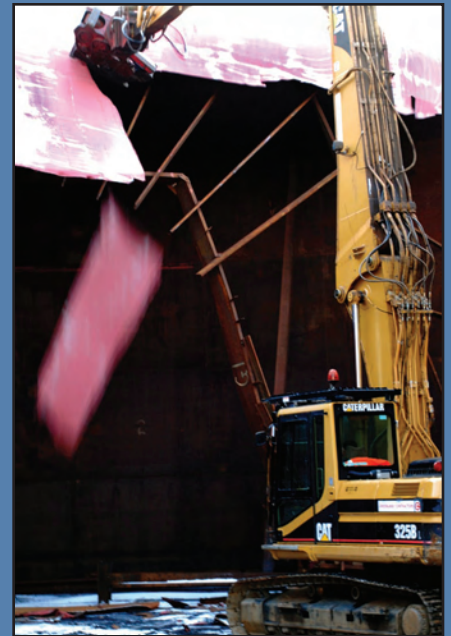


Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

CONSOLIDATION

An excavator with scissor clamp attachment tears off a part of fuel tank number 14's roof Sept. 30 as part of an ongoing demolition effort to reduce the size of Thule's fuel farm -- a key project to decreasing the ecological footprint in northern Greenland, conserving resources and saving money.



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Left: Players go up for the ball as it ricochets off the rim at the Fitness Center grand re-opening here Oct. 12. The gym has a new main floor court for several sport activities, a new sound and light system, and refurbished back rooms for racquetball, spinning and other classes. Each of the four sport competitions pitted two teams against one another. Below: Staff Sgt. Jill Williams, 12th Space Warning Squadron, serves during the volleyball tournament.



Revamped gym shows off during Fitness Month

Right: There was a spinning marathon at Thule Fitness Center Oct. 10. In celebration of fitness month held throughout October, the fitness center is holding several competitive and noncompetitive tournaments and classes to improve fitness. Two nutrition lectures, three martial arts classes, floor hockey games between the U.S. and Denmark and obstacle course were only a few of the events held throughout the month. For more information on November upcoming events at the gym, call the fitness center at 629-2519 or see page 11.

----- Fitness Month,
See page 10





Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

---- Fitness Month,
From page 9

Above: Penille Boe, Peter Villadsen and Jesper Hebsgaard, Greenland Contracting, participate in the spinning marathon at the Thule Fitness Center Oct. 10. Participants cycled for two hours and accrued nearly 50 miles on their spinning competition forms.

Right: Capt. Jeremy Denman, 821st Support Squadron logistics flight commander, and Jonas Sondergaard fight for control of the soccer ball at the Fitness Center Oct. 12.



November movies

Nov. 2	Wanted
	Get Smart
Nov. 7-11	Hancock
	Wall-E
	Mirrors
Nov. 14-16	Mirrors
	Swing Vote
	Space Chimps
Nov. 21-23	X-Files: I Want to Believe
	Stepbrothers
Nov. 27	Dark Knight
Nov. 28	Pineapple Express
	House Bunny
Nov. 29	Dark Knight
	Pineapple Express
Nov. 30	House Bunny
	Dark Knight

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Sunday**Monday****Tuesday****Wednesday****Thursday****Friday****Saturday**

						1 First Night Festival 1930 Hangar 7
2 Daylight Savings Ends Chili Chow- down 1230 Chapel Annex AFE Show 1900 TOW	3 Xmas Tree lighting 1600 Bldg 461 TRX begins Mondays 1900 Gym	4 Tai Chi Tuesdays 1800 Gym Operation Julemand gift wrapping 1900 CC Back exercis- es Tuesdays 1900 Gym	5 TRX begins Wednesdays 1800 Gym AFE Show 1900 TOW	6 Mental Health	7 Provider visits	8 Mongolian BBQ 1800 TOW 6-14 Nov
9 USO show 1900-2100 Hangar 7	10 Mortensaften Pilates begins Mondays 1800 Gym	11 Veterans Day TOW Club closed	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Wingman Day All Day CC	22 Operation Julemand Festival All Day
23 30	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 AFSPC Family Day	29

First Knight

ATO recognized for outstanding performance

821st Air Base Group

Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Ehlert was selected for this week's First Knight award. This award is designed to recognize outstanding Airmen each week for the work they do every day.

Name: Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Ehlert

Unit: 821st Air Base Group

Duty Title: Antiterrorism Officer

Time in service: 11 years, two months and seven days

Time assigned to the unit: Nine months

Hometown: Days Creek, Oregon

Hobbies: Hunting, hiking, computer and video games

Favorite music: Country



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Ehlert was selected for the First Knight award for the week of Oct. 30. This award is designed to recognize outstanding Airmen each week for the work they do every day.

Last good movie: "Fort Apache," with John Wayne

Last good book: "Rifles for Waite" by Harold Keith

Why he was selected for this award: "Sergeant Ehlert came to the group staff after 10 years on the street, having never worked on a staff before, let alone work one

desk away from a group commander. He plunged into the anti-terrorism plan, a critical write-up from the 2006 unit compliance inspection, and completed it while coordinating issues with two major commands and a combatant command to ensure Thule is safe from threats." - Lt. Col. David Arnold, 821st Air Base Group deputy commander.

What's your favorite thing about being in the Air Force?

"There are many things I enjoy about being in the Air Force, so that makes it hard to pick a favorite one. However, I would say that traveling around the world is up at the top of my list. In the 11 years I have been in, I have actually only been stationed in the United States for three and a half years. I have seen different parts of the world, from Europe to the Orient to the far reaches of Greenland. So yes, I would say that the world travel is one of my favorite things about the Air Force." - Sergeant Ehlert.

The 21st Space Wing MISSION

"Conduct flawless missile warning and space control operations, provide unsurpassed installation support and protection, while developing and deploying Warrior Airmen to defend America and our Allies."

